

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 12-22 are now pending in the application. Claim 6 has been amended, Claims 1 – 5 and 7 – 11 have been cancelled, and Claims 12 – 22 have been added herein. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not narrowing amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The abstract of the disclosure stands objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have amended the abstract according to the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claim 6 is allowed; Claim 6 has been amended with a minor grammatical revision.

The Examiner states that Claims 4, 5, 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have added independent Claims 14, 16 and 19 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent Claim 14 has been added to essentially include the allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 4, with minor grammatical revisions. Independent Claim 16 has been added to include the allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 5, with minor grammatical revisions. Finally, independent Claim 19 has been added to include

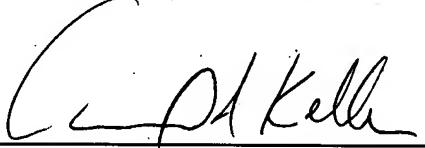
the allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 10, with minor grammatical revisions. It is respectfully submitted that these new independent claims, and their corresponding dependent claims, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9/1/04

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